

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin-Christians Ernakulam*): Subsequent to that did he discontinue that practice.

FOOD PROBLEMS—MEETING OF EMINENT MEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

81. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Food Supplies gives opportunities to the Members of this House, for meeting and placing their views before the eminent men who visit our State in connection with Food Problems?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): When an Hon'ble Member of this House wants to meet eminent people, has that member to write and inform the Director of Food Supplies?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): When the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi informed the Government that he wanted to meet the Famine Commission to give evidence, he was informed of the procedure that in such cases a written Memorandum has to be sent to the Secretary to the Commission and their sanction obtained for interview in each case. The Hon'ble Member of Kunnankulam who also wanted an interview was informed of this procedure.

SALE OF JAGGERY

82. Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have issued orders prohibiting the sale of jaggery (അക്കരവല്ലം) by retail or wholesale merchants in the State;

(b) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative will they please state why those orders were issued and when;

(c) will they please state how the jaggery (അക്കര) in stock when orders were issued is directed to be disposed of;

(d) if there be no direction made will they please state how the stockists are to be indemnified by the deterioration and damage of the stocks in hand with them on the date of the order under reference?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) No such general orders have been issued. But an order was issued on 29th August 1944 to the Assistant Supply Officers to direct the merchants, under notification No. 93, dated 2nd January 1944, not to dispose of jaggery imported into the State from Madras Province. When the Madras Government without the consent of the State issued permits to private merchants to export large quantities of jaggery to the State out of the quota, it was necessary to prohibit their sale to conserve the stock for proper distribution. If large quantities were sold indiscriminately, the State would have had to face acute scarcity for jaggery after the quota was sold. To prevent such a crisis Government had to take the above steps. The Madras Government have since directed the merchants to whom permits were issued to consign the stock to the State Government in future. The jaggery already imported by private merchants in the State is being purchased by the Government.

(b) See answer to (a).

(c) See answer to (a).

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (a).

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): May I know whether the purchases are over? It is being purchased is the answer.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): It is almost over.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan (*Industries and Commerce*): What was the quota of jaggery allotted for the Cochin Government by the Madras Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): 7,000 tons.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Did the Government get down the whole quota allotted to it in one lot?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): No. The quota was allotted in small quantities month by month and accordingly consignments were purchased and sent over to the State according to the arrangements made with the Civil Supplies Department of Madras.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan (*Industries and Commerce*): Did not the Madras Government consult the Cochin Government before issuing permits to the dealers to purchase jaggery there?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): At that time there was a sudden glut of jaggery in the Madras Province. They wanted to dispose of those stocks quickly and so they entered into this arrangement.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan (*Industries and Commerce*): May I know which all merchants get jaggery into State?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): I want notice.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Was there not sufficient stock with the Cochin Government when these merchants brought down jaggery from Madras?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Just for a month, that is all.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Was there any reduction in the price of jaggery soon after the merchants brought it?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The official rate of jaggery always depends upon the price at which we are getting it from the Madras Government. There was a reduction subsequently.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Is it a fact that the jaggery was taken from the merchants at the reduced rate?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The merchants were paid the price fixed by the Madras Government. That price together with the charges incurred by them was paid to the merchants.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): How long after the jaggery was got down, was it taken from the merchants?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The exact date I don't remember. It was sometime after.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Was not considerable damage caused due to the delay?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): It was inevitable. The merchants purchased it without consulting the Government and so they took the risk.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): When there was a glut in the Madras Market was our quota affected by the sale by the Madras Government direct to the merchants.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Yes. These sales were not of our State quota.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Was it being deducted from our quota?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Yes.

Mr. P. P. Devassi (*Trichur-South*): Is any instruction given to the merchants not to purchase jaggery without consulting the Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): There is a notification prohibiting the import without Government's sanction from outside the State.

TAPIOCA CULTIVATION

83. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have taken note of the large tracts of tapioca cultivation remaining unlifted and even now out-living the season;

(b) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative will they please state what they will direct these crops to be done within the interests of both the cultivator and the consumer;

(c) is the product liable to deterioration and destruction if allowed to remain unlifted after the full seasonal growth?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) Government are aware of the fact that large tracts of tapioca cultivation remain unlifted.

(b) Government do not think it necessary to give any direction to the cultivator or the consumer.

(c) Yes.

STRAW—STOCKS OF

84. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether since the Budget Session any return for the stocks of straw have been made to them by all or any of the cultivators of kole lands in the Trichur Taluk;

(b) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative who have done so with the quantity shown by each;